**Strengthening and Growing Languages**

**World Café – Merryl Wahlin**

A compilation of the group responses.

**What would you like to do to strengthen Languages in your school?**

* Make Languages compulsory, up to Year 10
* Creating an authentic Language classroom space
* In country immersion
* Sister School
* Exchange programs
* GAP program in target language, during and/or after finishing school
* Not having “taster” courses that have limiting lessons
* Flexible learning space
* Language Excursions and trips
* Offer more Languages
* CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Languages)
* More Language Exposure
* Language Assistant Teachers
* Smaller class sized
* Specialise in one Language
* More lessons in timetable
* Funding for overseas visits
* Literacy
* ATAR credits (?)
* Collaboration
* Bring the “country” to us, ie resources, books
* Time – speakers, excursions, teaching, research
* Whole school involvement eg History teacher teaches French history, Maths uses French words

**What works for Languages in Your School?**

* Multifaceted learning – nature of Language
* Challenging and creative
* Quality teaching
* Timetabling
* Subject selection – options to have more electives, 3 not 2 electives (?)
* Way of teaching and practice of Language, use it, make Languages authentic.
* Overseas opportunities – incentives, immersion
* Sympathetic/Supportive principals – despite low numbers
* Languages Day
* Taster Day of all Languages on offer
* Excursions, overseas tours
* Musical /Drama events and performances
* Singing in the target language
* Accommodating different learning needs/context
* Themes – World Cup (gender specific units of work)
* Games, role play
* Funded assistant programs – eg student teachers
* Principal/Senior Executive support
* Incorporating other subjects and Languages (Cross Faculty)
* Having a good Head Teacher
* Exchange programs with sister schools
* Rigour
* Expectations
* Real subjects (content)
* Good connection with students
* Vibrant learning environment
* Surveys to make language program relevant, eg. Capitalising on what is going on in the student world, eg. FIFA World Cup, tennis etc.
* Good teachers
* Whole day Language Day – eg French activities like boules, petanque, in English – Les Miserables
* Have school leadership travel overseas for a Language course/cultural exposure
* Whole school approach

**What makes a compelling argument for Languages?**

1. Global citizenship (Melbourne Declaration 2009)

* Monolingualism is the exception of learning
* UNESCO model (2011) – we need people who are socially and globally informed and who can work together.
* Develop empathy

1. Opening up different ways of thinking and understanding “self” and “others”
2. Bilingual brains are cognitively “better” – good verbal skills, enhanced learning, higher order thinking eg NAPLAN, across KLAs
3. Making connections

* Social
* Cultural
* Professional
* Financial
* Trade

1. Employment (direct jobs/advantage)
2. Global understanding/awareness
3. Intercultural understanding/awareness
4. Some universities given bonus points for studying Languages
5. Maintenance of mother tongue and culture
6. Enjoyment